



Franklin Graham
President

May 14, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As an American, the recent admission by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that it had targeted not-for-profit organizations with "Tea Party" and "Patriot" in their names for audits is chilling. However, I write today to inform you this profiling by the IRS was not limited to conservative political organizations; indeed, it extended to religious charities—Jewish and Christian—as well.

Last April, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, headquartered in North Carolina, ran full-page ads statewide supporting the Marriage Amendment in North Carolina. We believe marriage between a man and a woman to be a moral, biblical value to be upheld. And last fall, our ministry ran newspaper ads nationally encouraging voters to "cast our ballots for candidates who base their decisions on biblical principles and support the nation of Israel." The ad concluded with these words: "Vote for biblical values this November 6, and pray with me (Billy Graham) that America will remain one nation under God." (These ads were purchased with designated funds given by friends of our ministry for this purpose.)

To my surprise, on September 6, 2012, both Samaritan's Purse (headquartered in Boone, NC) and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (headquartered in Charlotte, NC) received notification from the IRS that a review would be conducted for tax year ending 2010. An IRS agent arrived October 15, 2012, to conduct a review of Samaritan's Purse; and an agent arrived on October 29, 2012, to conduct a review of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

In light of what the IRS admitted to on Friday, May 10, 2013, and subsequent revelations from other sources, I do not believe that the IRS audit of our two organizations last year is a coincidence—or justifiable. Yesterday you said, "If you've got the IRS operating in anything less than a neutral and non-partisan way, then that's outrageous, it is contrary to our traditions..." Mr. President, the IRS has already publicly acknowledged it operated in a less than neutral and non-partisan way. We also now

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know that the target of their improper actions was much wider than political or Tea Party organizations. Will you take some immediate action to reassure Americans we are not in a new chapter of America's history—repressive government rule?

After the election, we did receive official notice that our organizations continue to qualify for exemption from Federal income tax, and that our returns were accepted as filed. Unfortunately, while these audits not only wasted taxpayer money, they wasted money contributed by donors for ministry purposes, as we had to spend precious resources servicing the IRS agents in our offices. I am bringing this to your attention because I believe that someone in the Administration was targeting and attempting to intimidate us. This is morally wrong and unethical—indeed some would call it “un-American.”

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Franklin Graham', with a long, sweeping underline that extends down and to the left.

Franklin Graham

cc: Vice President Joe Biden

FG/jd